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Course: Fundamentals of Nursing

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ASSIGNMENT: Describe the nursing profession in Cameroon.

Before the introduction of modern nursing care in Cameroon during the colonial era, the care of patients were in the hands of medicine men and women. These people who are still in existence today were believed to possess spiritual powers, deep knowledge of herbs and other rituals coupled with their role in diagnosing and treating both physical and spiritual ailments. These medicine men acquired knowledge through apprenticeship, spiritual oral transmission to successors as instructed by their ancestors.

At a time infertility, one of the major health problems was managed by the traditional doctors, while problems of delivery and postpartum were handled by traditional birth attendants (TBAs) who were usually elderly women and widows.

Traditional methods were used by women to treat common childhood diseases, complex conditions like umbilical hernia. Relatives were highly implicated in the care of sick persons who usually takes instructions from the native doctors.

Nursing education in Cameroon can be traced back to the start of colony era. The annexation of Cameroon by the Germans in 1884 marked the start of nursing education in Cameroon.

